

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of washing substances from a coated surface of a material, the material being transported up at least one inclined substantially planar surface and wash solution being introduced at the upper part of the inclined planar surface between the surface and the material, the planar surface incorporating substantially non-smooth resistance means providing a resistance to downward flow of the wash solution and having a capacity to hold wash solution in excess of that of a substantially smooth surface.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the resistance means is provided by a cover.

3. A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the cover is of a fibrous material.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the time taken for the wash solution to flow down a length of the inclined surface is between 0.1 and 30 times the time taken for the material to pass up over the same length.

5. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the material being washed is photographic material.

6 Apparatus for washing substances from a coated surface of a material, the apparatus comprising at least one inclined substantially planar surface along which the material is passed, an inlet for the introduction of wash solution being provided at the upper part thereof, the planar surface incorporating substantially non smooth resistance means providing a resistance to downward flow of the wash solution and having a capacity to hold wash solution in excess of that of a substantially smooth surface.

7. Apparatus as claimed in claim 6 wherein the resistance means comprises a fibrous material.

8. Apparatus as claimed in claim 6 wherein the resistance means comprises a velvet material.

9. Apparatus as claimed in claim 6 wherein the resistance means comprises a felt material.

10. Apparatus as claimed in claim 6 wherein the resistance means comprises a layer of closely packed spheres.

11. Apparatus as claimed in claim 6 wherein the resistance means is provided by a number of grooves in the planar surface.

12. Apparatus as claimed in claim 6 wherein the planar surface is further provided with a series of channels across the width thereof.

13. Apparatus as claimed in claim 6 wherein the planar surface is further provided with a series of ribs across the width thereof.